



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Volume 10, No. 3

343 King's Highway East

November, 1967

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND STORY OF CAPE MAY HISTORIC PRESERVATION SCHEDULED FOR NOV. 28.

The Society's annual business meeting will be held this year on the fourth Tuesday of the month, November 28, at Lake Street Friends Meeting House. Principal order of business is the election of officers. (Nominees listed on page four).

Following the business meeting, two members of the Society will bring you a first hand report of the brilliant achievement in Cape May in evaluating and preserving its large group of Victorian structures.

Mrs. Edward W. Jennings and Mrs. James G. Aiken met with Mayor Frank A. Gauvry of Cape May on October 26. They were received with great cordiality and every effort was made, every door opened to give them a comprehensive and accurate story on how it began, how it works, what the problems were and are and what Haddonfield can learn from the preservation experience in Cape May.

On this assignment Elinor Jennings and Joan Aiken were representing the Society for the Preservation of Residential and Historic Haddonfield. As members of the Communications Committee, they had chosen Cape May as the first in a series of stories to be published in local newspapers on historic preser-

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, November 28

TIME: 8:00 P. M.

PLACE: Lake Street Friends

Meeting House

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

vation in old American towns, as a means of public education as to what can be done in Haddonfield.

At our November meeting Mrs. Jennings will tell how it started, who fathered the movement and who is responsible for its success. Mrs. Aiken will tell how it works and give you an outline of the steps which were taken to achieve this remarkable project.

Though the situation of Cape May and Haddonfield differs to some extent (resort living as against permanent residence), nevertheless, the basic problem is the same—the preservation of the historic and architecturally unique character of early towns.

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The threats to this character in these two towns are also the same. But due to the initial effort by a group of local citizens, the cooperation of city council and local government representatives, and a program of public education, the Cape May dream has become a reality.

The comment of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in its April-June magazine issue gives some idea of the worthwhileness of the tremendous undertaking.

"Cape May, N. J. is today experiencing a kind of revival that seemed a total impossibility ten years ago. The success of the project being enacted there has bolstered the economy, given the city pride in itself and perhaps most important, a large group of Victorian structures are now recognized as an asset, indeed a sense of uniqueness has taken hold of the local residents."

When we look around Haddonfield at the still remaining 18th. and early 19th century as well as Victorian structures we cannot help but be filled with zeal for preservation. Haddonfield's architectural heritage is older and of greater historic significance than Cape May's.

All those interested in the growing preservation movement in our cities and towns will be bolstered by this "success story" of our resort neighbor.

IN MEMORIAM

Mildred A. Leicht, sister and survivor of Herbert Leicht, died October 23 in her home. She had been ill for several months. Her calm and courageous spirit in facing the end, which she was well aware of, is an inspiration to all who were privileged to see her and attend her in her final days.

SOCIETY FLEA MARKET PROVES A PERENNIAL SUCCESS

The "baby" of the Woman's Committee of the Historical Society—the annual Flea Market held on the grounds of Greenfield Hall—is now a full grown, vigorous enterprise, attracting visitors from the far reaches of Delaware Valley and chalking up a dollars and cents success for the Society.

The Flea Market on June 3 grossed \$2,062.97 with a net profit of \$1,741.15, a little better than last year. Perfect weather, attractive and diversified booths, efficient arrangements and gracious booth-tenders insured another "hit" this year. The ladies under the chairmanship of Mrs. Paul Sims are to be congratulated.

1968 CANDLELIGHT TOUR WILL HONOR HERB LEICHT

The Candlelight Tour of Haddonfield Homes, sponsored by the Historical Society, was cancelled this year because of difficulties in securing the many volunteer workers needed to make it a success. With an earlier start, the Society is planning the tour for October, 1968.

After the distinguished architect and our past president, Herbert Leicht, passed away on April 10, several members of the Society had the inspiration to open the homes which had been designed by Herb. By that time several of the Society's most devoted tour workers were otherwise committed. President Louis Goettelmann announced that rather than risk an understaffed tour, the Society would postpone the event until next year.

Mr. Goettelmann said he could not think of a finer way to honor the memory of "a distinguished historian, antiquarian and architect who gave so many years to promoting the interests of the Historical Society and the traditional character of Haddonfield."

HISTORY AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMAN'S COMMITTEE IS STORY OF DEDICATION, IMAGINATION AND HARD WORK

By Mrs. James J. Lennon

Editor's note: One morning in September, in search of material for the next Historical Society Bulletin, I attended a regular meeting of the Woman's Committee of the Society at Greenfield Hall. I was so impressed with the reports of the committee's achievements, its imaginative plans for the future, its dedication to the progress of the Historical Society and the enormous amount of time and hard work the members gave to the Committee, I suggested a "Woman's Committee Story." Here it is, written by the publicity chairman of the Committee.

The first specific mention of creating a "Woman's Committee" in the Society appears in the Society's minutes of November 1, 1949: "A Woman's Committee of 20 was also discussed . . ." On November 29 the minutes tell us: "A resolution was made and passed that: Our president form a committee consisting of about 25 (women) to formulate plans for an exhibit of our costumes and silver, glass and old documents."

On March 7, 1950, Miss Gertrude Smith, president of the Society, announced that a Woman's Committee of 25 members had been formed and Mrs. Charles A. Richardson appointed its chairman. Among the Charter members were: Miss Mary M. Cain, Mrs. R. J. Dalton, Mrs. J. W. Danenhower, Mrs. J. Linton Engle, Mrs. Louis H. Goettelmann, Mrs. Jesse G. Haydock, Mrs. Joseph W. Pennypacker, Mrs. Abbott Willits.

After making a survey of the Society's urgent needs, the next question was "How to earn the money to meet them?"

A series of Teas were planned and a guest speaker invited to talk on subjects of historic interest. The Teas were held at the Indian King and drew an audience of fifty to sixty women. Speakers included Walter Cox of Haddonfield who talked about his noted collection of South Jersey furniture, Mrs. Jesse Haydock who discussed antique glass, Mrs. Paul Con'en on Antique Buttons, and Joseph Kindig, one of the country's top antique dealers on "Choice and Rare Antiques."

Another highly successful "first" undertaken by the Committee was the sale of commemorative plates. A member of the committee advanced funds to pay for the initial order. The first plate featured a picture of the Indian King from an etching made from a 1914 photograph lent by Mrs. Haydock. The plates enjoyed instant popularity and were sold out in six weeks. The idea of the plates so caught the

public's fancy that when the Library celebrated its 150th anniversary, the Woman's Committee was invited to order and sell commemorative plates of the Library.

Monies earned from these activities were spent on useful gifts to the Society. The first gift were the the cups and plates for social occasions still in use at Greenfield Hall. These were followed by twelve dozen teaspoons; and later, by a generous contribution toward the purchase of a display case.

Not all Woman's Committee efforts were channelled into having teas and raising money. Much work was done within the building. Exhibits were arranged, display cases overhauled, new venetian blinds installed, and many other "housekeeping" chores performed.

Perhaps the most ambitious "elbow grease" undertaking was repainting the downstairs rooms. With feminine persuasion, the women put to work C. Wilder Marsh, Howard Tilton and Jack Dalton who painted many evenings and Saturdays while the women cleaned and polished.

Succeeding Mrs. Richardson as Chairman was Mrs. R. J. Dalton. As the Society's collections grew, space in the old building became more cluttered with the result that no one article of furniture, silver or china received the attention it merited. The Woman's Committee undertook a study, consulting such sources as the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Art Museum and made a series of recommendations to the Board. Their suggestions were approved and the Woman's Committee in time rearranged exhibits from the basement to the third floor.

When Mrs. Ruth Dalton was appointed Curator, Mrs. James Baxter accepted the post as Woman's Committee Chairman. The members of the Committee also acted as hostesses at Society meetings, including the preparation of a "Covered Dish Supper" at the February, 1958, meeting. They also served as guides at headquarters every day from two to five. Later, upon the recommendation of Mrs. Baxter, a full-time caretaker was appointed.

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Historical Society of Haddonfield

Haddonfield, New Jersey

Non-Profit Organization

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

The Woman's Committee was a major force in the efficient move to Greenfield Hall, the Society's beautiful new headquarters, in 1960. Working with Mrs. William B. Tomlinson, Chairman, and Mrs. Dalton, members sorted, packed, wrapped clothes, china, silver, all sorts of small objects, for safe moving.

They unpacked cartons, placed the articles for best display in the more spacious rooms and worked tirelessly to complete the job in time for the formal dedication of the Society's new home on February 28, 1961.

The Woman's Committee also planned several interesting social activities. One was a Garden Party and Fashion Show on October 2, 1961. It was reported, "Quite a nice affair and really, a great success." It must have been, for later in the year, the Committee made a gift of \$300 to the Society.

Mrs. John W. Danenhower was appointed chairman in March, 1963. In June of that year, the first "Flea Market" was held. It was so successful, both as a social and community occasion and as a fund-raising activity, that the Committee is now planning its Sixth Annual Flea Market.

Profits from the Flea Market have been used for the benefit of the Society. The entire third floor, the kitchen and the stairs leading to the second floor have been painted; rugs and pads have been purchased, also a refrigerator for the kitchen, a new light over the front door and some landscaping. Countless other small gifts have been made.

The Woman's Committee now has a sizable sum in its Treasury, part of which has been invested in 5% Savings Certificates. This money may be used for any number of purposes. Under consideration are the restoration of the Hip Roof House and the purchase of antique furniture of Haddonfield or South Jersey origin.

"In these days when there are so many demands on our time," says Mrs. Earl B. Holl, present Chairman, "we are really fortunate to have as able and active a group as we do. With the help of all our members and our Flea Market volunteers, it has been possible to continue the record of service started twenty-seven years ago."

NOMINEES FOR ANNUAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 28, 1967

1st Vice President No Nominee (see note)
2nd Vice President Mrs. David S. Lenhart
3rd Vice President Mr. John S. Wood

TRUSTEES

Term expiring 1968, to fill remainder of term
of Mr. Herbert R. Leicht.

Mr. David S. Lenhart

Terms expiring 1970:

Mrs. Louis H. Goettelmann
Mrs. James J. Lennon
Mr. Charles R. Mulloy, Jr.
Mr. Charles A. Richardson
Mr. Paul C. Smith

(Note: No nomination has been made for the office of 1st Vice President, in the absence of definite commitment by possible candidates at this time. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the business meeting).

Submitted by: NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

B. Dexter Streeter, *Chairman*
Mrs. Edward E. Krauss, Jr.
Mrs. Benjamin H. Lowry



Mrs. James G. Aiken, Editor
Historical Society Bulletin
Send all editorial contributions to:
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